

The **Tasmanian Association for the Gifted** has people who will speak with you about your concerns.

### Where to from here?

You may wish to:

**contact TAG** for support, information and literature on gifted children. You will be provided with your local support group liaison contact;

The Association has a network of contacts who offer information and support for parents and families of gifted children.

**attend TAG information evenings** held regularly in the North, Northwest and South of the state;

**read gifted magazines, newsletters** and other specialist books available from the Association. As a member of TAG you will automatically receive the Victorian gifted magazine *Vision* by mail twice per year along with regular emailed news updates;

**visit our web site** for up to date news and information about our Association, upcoming events, resources for sale, books available in our Member Library, articles about giftedness and links to other web sites of interest.



### Need more information?

**Tasmanian Association for the Gifted Inc**  
**GPO Box 1942 Hobart Tasmania 7001**

**Phone 0467 528 048**

**email: [tasgifted@gmail.com](mailto:tasgifted@gmail.com)**

visit our website

**[www.tasgifted.com](http://www.tasgifted.com)**

updated July 2013

### Gifted pre-schoolers usually display some of these characteristics:

#### *Achieving developmental milestones early:*

- advanced physical skills and hand coordination;
- early and exceptional language patterns;
- early reading ability, often self-taught.

#### *Advanced social and cognitive development:*

- a well-developed sense of humour;
- extreme curiosity and ask complex questions;
- active and vivid imagination;
- single minded in exploring wide-ranging and special interests, often in great depth;
- desire to create, invent, investigate and conceptualise - inquisitive;
- pleasure in intellectual activities;
- spontaneity;
- interest in collections;
- enjoyment in creating and building new devices.

#### **However, they may also display:**

- poor fine motor skills;
- frustration when unable to physically do a task;
- little need for sleep;
- preference for playing with older children, difficulty relating to children the same age;
- sensitivity, feel things more deeply or intensely than others of the same age;
- behaviours which may result in their being confused with children with ADHD or Asperger's Syndrome;
- tendency to daydream, doodle, 'switch off' into their own world.

**You may notice some or all of these characteristics along with other indicators of giftedness.**



★ ★ ★ ★  
*Tasmanian Association for the Gifted Inc.*

## Is my pre-schooler gifted?

*Children who are gifted have potential in one or more of the ability domains (intellectual, physical, creative or social) that places them in the top 10-15% of their age peers.*

*Developing this potential into talents or skills requires appropriate supports and environments*

*If you feel that your pre-school child may be gifted, here are some ways the Tasmanian Association for the Gifted (TAG) can help you.*

## How do I know if my pre-schooler is gifted?

Giftedness makes itself felt in a variety of ways. Many parents recall the following:

- Even as a new born, baby did not sleep much;
- Very alert - often lifting head and looking around at a very early stage;
- Developing ahead of the crowd - other people commenting on the child's alertness, vocabulary, or early walking and talking.

Many parents find that they first identify their gifted pre-schooler in situations where they are with other children of the same age as this is often when differences in development are noticeable.

Research suggests that it is common for siblings of gifted children to demonstrate some of the characteristics of giftedness also.

## Is there a formal identification process?

Identification can be made at any age. It is appropriate to look at a variety of methods:

### Checklist

A checklist that can be used to identify young gifted children is on the back of this brochure.

### Records of developmental milestones

You can keep records of milestones in your child's development. Information on your child's:

- Physical development eg age first rolled, sat unsupported, crawled, walked etc;
- Language development;
- Development of hand movements eg grasping objects, holding objects between finger and thumb.

Keep dated examples of the child's art, etc which can be used together with other indicators that the pre-school teacher or child health nurse may have noticed. Gifted children typically reach these milestones earlier than others.

## Testing

Most educational psychologists prefer a child to be four years of age before administering a standard IQ test. They will usually ask for details of the child's development to date.

*Some reasons for obtaining a formal assessment:*

- Considering/Applying for Early Entry in the Government or Non-Government school system in Tasmania;
- For some children giftedness masks learning disabilities. The reverse can also be true; learning disabilities can mask the recognition of giftedness in the school environment.
- Testing can identify specific areas of need and focus for early intervention.

## Why is identification important?

Understanding giftedness can help you be aware of *your* child's needs.

The Tasmanian Association for the Gifted provides resources (see over) and varied opportunities for parents and children to meet. It is often important to meet others who understand the challenges you face as a parent of a gifted child.

Early identification can put parents in touch with other parents and support services.

## Choosing a pre-school or school to suit your child.

Some suggestions when choosing a school for your gifted child include:

- Use your knowledge of your child to consider the key characteristics of an ideal learning environment for him or her;
- Ask other parents in your local area about their experience – this may give an idea of how community and parent friendly the school is. Is open communication between parents and school welcomed and encouraged?

- Speak to parents of children attending the schools under consideration – try to gather information from a number of different people;
- Attend school open days. What is emphasised? What are the higher priorities for the school? What is out on display?
- Ask about behavioural management policy, check this with parents of children who attend;
- Read school handbooks that outline philosophies. Is the school flexible in its curriculum and accommodating to different interests and learning styles?
- Make an appointment and ask questions. Does the school have a Gifted and Talented Policy?
- Does the school consider the unique and individual needs of the gifted child both within and outside the classroom? Be honest with the person you speak to and tell them what **you want your child to experience at school.**

## Can my child enter school early?

Some gifted children may benefit from early entry to school. If your child will be at least 3 years and 6 months at 1 January and you believe your child would benefit from early entry you may contact TAG on 0488 291 497 to discuss your child.

Your child will be required to have formal assessment by an educational psychologist to supply objective information on his/her abilities and potential. TAG also recommends that you prepare a portfolio on your child including developmental milestones (walking, talking, reading and others) and samples of work that present a complete picture of your child's abilities.

To view the current Tasmanian Government policies on gifted education, including guidelines for Early Entry and Acceleration, search the Tasmanian Government Website for up to date information. Take particular note of the date by when applications for Early Entry should be lodged.